

## **2008 DALLAS COUNTY REPUBLICAN PLATFORM**

As amended and ratified at the Dallas County Republican Convention,  
Dallas Center Elementary School, Dallas Center, Iowa  
March 8, 2008

### **PREAMBLE**

We expect Republican candidates and Republican incumbents in office to adhere to the fundamental beliefs stipulated in the Republican Party Platform.

### **1. ECONOMICS/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- 1.1 We believe that government should not be in the business of picking winners and losers, and that the use of government-provided grants and loans should be prohibited. Government should instead concentrate on creating a low-tax, low-regulation environment that is friendly to all entrepreneurs and businesses.
- 1.2 We believe that government projects should not be classified as Project Labor Agreements (PLA) or Davis-Bacon projects.
- 1.3 We support Iowa remaining a "Right-to-Work" state and are against weakening any Right-to-Work laws.
- 1.4 We support holding both borrowers and lenders responsible and accountable for all loans. We believe the free market will reward responsible lending decisions. We are not in favor of a government bailout of the mortgage industry.

### **2. ALTERNATIVE ENERGY/RENEWABLE FUELS**

- 2.1 We believe the use of non-refundable tax credits should be increased in order to encourage the market for renewable energy. We oppose governmental mandates on the supply or use of such fuels.
- 2.2 We should reduce our dependence on foreign oil and instead allow the private sector to increase production of renewable and non-renewable fuels as the market dictates.
- 2.3 Vehicle with efficient engines whether gasoline, diesel, or hybrid should have less expensive registration fees.
- 2.4 We support environmentally aware development of the oil reserves in the Alaskan National Wildlife Reserve (ANWAR), and the reserves off America's coastlines to reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

### **3. IMMIGRATION**

- 3.1 We support legal immigration
- 3.2 We consider the granting of citizenship to newborns of illegal aliens unconstitutional and not the original intent of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment.
- 3.3 We oppose the granting of blanket amnesty to illegal immigrants.
- 3.4 We support new laws that will clearly prohibit illegal aliens from receiving benefits at taxpayer expense.
- 3.5 We support the federal government providing additional resources for the strict enforcement of current and future laws in order to halt illegal immigration, including increased border control, fencing and physical impediments, and other efforts in support of those laws.
- 3.6 Driver's licenses should only be issued to those who can show legal proof of residency.

- 3.7 We oppose the establishment of a guest worker program.
- 3.8 Anyone who serves in the Armed forces honorably should be granted U.S. Citizenship.

#### **4. DOMESTIC POLICY**

- 4.1 We support stricter control and limited use of absentee voting.
- 4.2 We support English as the official language of the United States.
- 4.3 We support banning pornography in libraries, schools and other publicly owned establishments. We oppose the use of tax money that allows access to pornography.
- 4.4 We support alternatives to the current Social Security system, including personal accounts.
- 4.5 We call on Iowa's legislature to strengthen laws against abuse of eminent domain.
- 4.6 We believe in private property rights and the use of eminent domain should be limited to projects for public infrastructure purposes, and not for private development.
- 4.7 In order to make Iowa more attractive to business, we support eliminating the tie between residential and agricultural property tax assessment, reducing the rollback on residential property, and thus stopping the shifting of property tax from residential property to commercial and industrial property. Accordingly, we support HF847, 2005 session.
- 4.8 As part of recognition of U.S. sovereignty we must retain control over the Internet.
- 4.9 Unions should not be able to fund political parties.
- 4.10 "In God We Trust" should remain on the face of all coinage and currency of the United States.
- 4.11 "Under God" should remain in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 4.12 Repeal the Real ID act a National Identification Numbering system, and oppose any biometric identification system.
- 4.13 We support privacy legislation that prohibits private parties from discriminating against individuals who refuse to disclose or obtain a Social Security number for any purpose other than social security and Tax Identification purposes. We call for the repeal of all laws, regulations, and statutes that require the use of the Social Security number for any purpose other than Social Security and tax identification purposes.
- 4.14 We believe that welfare benefits to able-bodied individuals should be limited to a period not to exceed two years. We call for welfare rolls to be checked against all prison population rolls nationwide, and any prisoners should be removed from the welfare rolls while they are incarcerated.
- 4.15 We believe that the State of Iowa should continue to take steps to reduce the number of people on welfare and state welfare spending by enacting tough welfare reforms. We believe the current welfare system encourages dependency on government and robs individuals of their motivation and self-esteem. We support welfare reforms designed to break the cycle of dependency by requiring welfare recipients to work, learn, or train, in exchange for their benefits.

#### **5. LAW ENFORCEMENT/JUSTICE**

- 5.1 We support laws that provide harsher penalties for sexual offenses against children and that differentiate from domestic offenses involving only adults or individuals of similar ages.
- 5.2 We support the reinstatement of the death penalty
- 5.3 We favor stricter penalties for those found guilty of hit and run accidents, especially in cases

where the victim is killed.

- 5.4 We support enforcement of existing Federal obscenity and pornography laws.
- 5.5 We deny the validity of judicial rulings that use foreign court rulings or unratified treaties to overturn U.S. precedent.
- 5.6 We believe Ramos and Compean, the two border patrol agents imprisoned for doing their job, should be pardoned. Other patrol agents who have been wrongfully jailed for protecting our borders should also be pardoned.

## **6. TAXATION / GOVERNMENT SPENDING**

- 6.1 We believe that Iowa's complicated sales-tax system hinders small businesses and holds back economic growth in Iowa. We call for the leveling of sales taxes throughout the state to a single, statewide flat-rate tax.
- 6.2 We believe that government must act as a careful steward of the public trust. To that end, we call for state government to immediately return to a balanced budget without depending upon trust funds and other extraordinary sources of revenue to achieve fiscal balance. We support the State of Iowa adhering to the 99% expenditure law. The governor and legislature should adopt a budgeting approach that justifies existing programs on an annual basis.
- 6.3 We believe that less government is better government. We support every reasonable effort on the part of all governments and tax payers to limit taxing and spending. We believe that the purpose of taxation is to fund the constitutionally mandated functions of government, not to redistribute the wealth or to fund ever increasing social programs. We should always strive to have less government, fewer government employees, and lower taxes.
- 6.4 We support the proposal to discount Iowan's income taxes at just 1% of earned income, with interest, dividends, pensions, social security, and capital gains being tax free, or the ability of Iowans to file on the basis of their current deductions, whichever results in the lowest tax liability.
- 6.5 If the current tax system is retained, we support removing all taxes on Pensions and Social Security income, as well as removing taxes on interest, dividends, capital gains, and other appreciation in order to encourage investment and savings.
- 6.6 We support permanent elimination of federal and state taxes on estates and inheritances.
- 6.7 We support a taxpayer bill of rights (TABOR) restricting the growth of government to the greater of population growth or economic development.
- 6.8 The Internet should remain tax-free.
- 6.9 The Federal Government needs to balance the budget and begin to work towards the elimination of the federal deficit.
- 6.10 We support the abolition of the Internal Revenue Code and replace it with a Fair Tax or Flat Tax concept.
- 6.11 We support a one-year moratorium on defeated bond and tax issues before they that are brought up for re-election.
- 6.12 The Republican Party of Dallas County supports the ability of Iowans to fully deduct the amount they pay in federal income taxes on their Iowa income tax return and opposes any attempt to impose a state tax on money used solely to pay a federal tax, and we urge our elected representatives in the Iowa House and Senate to work and vote to protect federal deductibility and maintain this fundamental principle of tax fairness

## **7. GOVERNMENT**

- 7.1 We believe Congress should uphold their congressional duty to impeach and remove judges who are not upholding the original intent of the Constitution.
- 7.2 We support requiring registered voters to show a state-recognized official picture form of ID prior to being allowed to vote
- 7.3 We oppose same-day voter registration, and support previous Iowa law requiring registration 10 days prior to an election or primary.
- 7.4 We believe government should not take on functions that compete directly with the private sector.
- 7.5 Ex-felons should not be automatically granted voting rights without a traditional review process.
- 7.6 The President of the United States should have Line Item Veto Authority.
- 7.7 No requirements or obligations or liability should be made on legal citizens to provide advertisements, legal documents, or informal communications in any language other than English

## **8. SPECIAL RIGHTS**

- 8.1 We oppose "hate crimes" legislation that unconstitutionally limits free speech and criminalizes the reasonable actions of persons who oppose the granting of special status or privileges to defined groups.
- 8.2 We oppose every effort to grant special rights to groups of people based on sexual orientation.
- 8.3 We support the elimination of affirmative action legislation, as it constitutes a violation of equal protection and rights guaranteed by the US Constitution.

## **9. FAMILIES**

- 9.1 We oppose any government funded or subsidized day care.
- 9.2 We support a state constitutional amendment that defines and supports marriage as the union of one man and one woman. We support Federal legislation that defines and supports marriage as the union of one man and one woman.
- 9.3 We oppose Civil Unions.
- 9.4 We believe that it is in the best interests of children to be adopted by married couples consisting of one man and one woman.
- 9.5 The liberty of parents to direct the upbringing and education of their children is a fundamental right. Neither the United States nor any state shall infringe upon this right without demonstrating that its governmental interest as applied to the person is of the highest order and not otherwise served.

## **10. RIGHT TO LIFE**

- 10.1 We believe that every human being has an intrinsic right to life from conception to natural death, and it is the role of government to protect innocent life from being killed, especially when the innocent victim is so called "unwanted", "burdensome", or "useable for research". Government should ban the use of tax dollars from supporting abortion, and we encourage private programs that facilitate alternatives to abortion by meeting the needs of mothers and offering adoption services. We believe adoption offers alternatives to those involved that may find themselves

pregnant in unwanted situations.

- 10.2 We support the appointment of judges who would uphold the original intent of the Constitution, and reverse Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton.
- 10.3 We support private sector stem cell research limited to adult stem cells only.
- 10.4 We are opposed to all human cloning-reproductive or therapeutic. We strongly urge that the 2002 Human Cloning Ban, which was repealed by the Democratic Party in the 2007 Legislature, be reinstated.

## **11. EDUCATION**

- 11.1 We support the inherent right of parents to choose and direct the education of their children. We support the use of vouchers so that tax dollars can be used for public, private, home, or alternative education.
- 11.2 We believe that the federal government should not be involved in education, and we support eliminating the federal Department of Education and repealing the "No Child Left Behind" Act.
- 11.3 We believe schools should provide Creationism and Intelligent Design education along with Evolution in their curriculum.
- 11.4 We believe it is the responsibility of the parent to determine pre-kindergarten education for their children
- 11.5 Iowa's education system should emphasize the study of the U.S. and Iowa Constitution. Our education system should test and set standards for our students on this important matter.
- 11.6 We support allowing local school districts to display the Ten Commandments and the American Flag along with the daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in its entirety in Iowa schools and classrooms. Additionally, we support voluntary teacher or student lead prayer in the schools and use of the Bible should be allowed as a local option.
- 11.7 We recommend that educators stress abstinence outside marriage as the surest way to prevent pregnancy and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases and associated psychological problems.
- 11.8 We oppose the use of tax dollars for the distribution of condoms or any other form of birth control in public schools.
- 11.9 We support the right of parents home schooling their children to be able to teach Driver's Education to their children.
- 11.10 We support a parental rights amendment to the US Constitution stating that parents have the right to direct the upbringing and education of their children.
- 11.11 We oppose the state's ability to mandate any education curriculum.
- 11.12 We wish to continue to support quality education in Iowa through recognizing the need to maintain and attract competent professional teachers in the classrooms so that every student receives the best possible education, supporting teacher incentives through monetary and recognition rewards, and empowering teachers and administrators to remove disruptive students from a classroom or campus.

## **12. HEALTH CARE**

- 12.1 We support utilizing all taxes currently collected from the sale of tobacco products to offset costs associated with smoking-related health issues.
- 12.2 We believe that AIDS should be classified as a communicable disease and treated as such under current law.

- 12.3 We support the expanded use of health savings accounts.
- 12.4 We encourage continued private, not public, investment in pioneering science that will result in better treatments to prevent and lessen the toll of chronic disease.
- 12.5 We oppose expansion of government-sponsored health care. Government regulation and subsidy constitutes a threat to both the quality and availability of patient-oriented health care and treatment.
- 12.6 We believe business owners and citizens should maintain the freedom to decide if smoking is permitted on their property.

### **13. NATIONAL DEFENSE**

- 13.1 We believe in a strong national defense and the support our military.
- 13.2 We believe that the federal government should reduce the threat of terrorism by securing the United States' borders at all points of entry by any means necessary, military or otherwise.

### **14. GAMBLING**

- 14.1 We are opposed to the expansion of gambling and gaming and we support a moratorium on issuing new gambling licenses in Iowa.
- 14.2 We oppose government ownership of any gambling facility or activity.
- 14.3 We support the effort to remove ATM's from gambling establishments.

### **15. GUN CONTROL**

- 15.1 We reaffirm that the Second Amendment means the "individual" has the right to bear arms. We continue to support the upholding of the Second Amendment freedom. We don't support more laws, but better enforcement of the laws already on the books.
- 15.2 We support legislation to prohibit state and local governments from confiscating firearms from law-abiding citizens in the event of a natural disaster.
- 15.3 We oppose the United Nations' policy of civil disarmament, which would result in the confiscation of legal weapons from private citizens.
- 15.4 The Dallas County Republicans believe that all non-disqualified persons who have completed the State of Iowa approved course(s) for concealed weapons permits shall receive such permit from their county sheriff or the Iowa Commissioner of Public Safety.
- 15.5 Public school buildings should not restrict possession of firearms by those legally possessing a concealed carry permit as this endangers our children.
- 15.6 The right to bear arms is inherent in the right of self defense, defense of the family, and defense against tyranny, conferred on the individual and the community by our Creator to safeguard life, liberty, and property, as well as to help preserve the independence of the nation.
- 15.7 We uphold the right of the citizen to keep and bear arms. We oppose attempts to prohibit ownership of guns by law-abiding citizens, and stand against all laws, which would require the registration of guns or ammunition.
- 15.8 We call for the repeal of all federal firearms legislation, beginning with Federal Firearms Act of 1968.
- 15.9 We call for the rescinding of all executive orders, the prohibition of any future executive orders, and the prohibition of treaty ratification, which would in any way limit the right to keep and bear arms.

**16. FOREIGN POLICY**

- 16.1 Under the Central American Free Trade Agreement (“CAFTA”), as well as the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas (“FTAA”), our borders with Canada and Mexico will be erased. We should remain a sovereign nation and encourage free trade without the FTAA and CAFTA.
- 16.2 We support the United States withdrawing from the United Nations.
- 16.3 We support the withdrawal from the North American Free Trade Agreement (“NAFTA”) and the Security and Prosperity Partnership (“SPP”) and we oppose the NAFTA Super Highway.
- 16.4 We oppose the ratification of the Law of the Sea Treaty (LOST).
- 16.5 We urge continued economic and military support for Israel, our strong ally.

**17. ENVIRONMENT**

- 17.1 We support responsible use of our natural resources.
- 17.2 We do not support US Government participation in international environmental treaties, such as the Kyoto Protocol, that ties the US Government to other nations in the world.